War Allowance.

36 *MR. A. K. KUMARAN VAIDYAN : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether war allowance has been sanctioned to the Anchal Masters of non-departmental Anchal Offices ; and

(*b*) if so, the amount of such allowance and the number of such Anchal Offices ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : നാൺഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറൽ അഞ്ചൽമാസ്റ്ററന്മാർക്ക് അലവൻസു കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള കാരണം എന്താണ് ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : The general rule for grant of such allowances is that those who may receive them should be full time employees of Government. Non-departmental anchal master do note come under that category.

Tapioca Control Order.

37 *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances which necessitated the passing of the recent Tapioca Control Order and the provisions for licences under that order ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Food Grains Purchase Officer*) : Numerous complaints were received by Government regarding the non-availability of tapioca in the local markets for purposes of consumption though production of the commodity had not diminished. One of the main reasons for this dearth was understood to be that leading merchants and industrial concerns were in the habit of buying raw tapioca at prohibitive rates and storing it in the form of dry chips with a view to profiteering. As a result, the commodity went out of the poor man's reach. In order to ensure its supply and to ease the present food crisis, Government were forced to take steps for controlling the article and for the introduction of licence system in tapioca business. As to the provisions for licences, the attention of the member is invited to the provisions of the Order, published in the Government Gazette dated 2-11-1943.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know whether, after the passing of the recent Tapioca Control Order, tapioca is available in the local market ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI : Yes, Sir, to a large extent.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI : May I know whether tapioca is being sold at controlled rates at present ?

RAJYASEVAPRVAINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI : Yes, Sir, at the modified prices.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Thiruvalla*) : May I know whether the Food Advisory Committee was consulted with regard to the change in the price of tapioca ?

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RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir. I may add that in pursuance of the debate on the Food Advisory committee, necessary steps have been taken to implement the decision.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether it was not said that the restriction of price should be removed so far as tapioca was concerned?

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, on a point of order. May I know whether the Chief Secretary can answer this question?

PRESIDENT: I have ruled very often that as amongst Government benches, anybody can answer For instance, the Conservator of Forests can answer a matter pertaining to the Judicial Department. All the ten members of Government are supposed to speak on behalf of Government and therefore anyone can answer any question. That has been ruled not only here but in the legislatures all over the world. To point an instance, Mr. Amery speaks on war policies although he is the Secretary of State for India.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The idea was mooted at a meeting of the Food Advisory Committee. Two suggestions were made by the Committee. The main suggestion was that price control itself might be taken away so that there might be free competition in the open market. There was also the opinion that while price control was maintained the price itself might be raised. Government said they would consider the question and the price was slightly increased.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from Government whether they have consulted anybody in regard to the present fixation of the price?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Government have consulted the District Officers.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether it was not the idea expressed at the Food Conference that it should not be below 1 ch. 2 cash per pound?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: So far as the Food Advisory Committee was concerned, it was even suggested that control might be withdrawn.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether there is any reason why the price prevailing in Cochin should not be adopted here?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: In Cochin it is slightly higher than it is here, because Travancore is supplying them with tapioca.

PRESIDENT: Cochin depends almost entirely on Travancore for its supply of tapioca, so I am told.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: The position is the contrary. They have got enough of tapioca.

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PRESIDENT: I would like the question to be investigated. The Dewan of Cochin may be told that the question was discussed here in the House. But I may say at once that Mr. Dixon told us that in spite of his efforts, the people would not grow tapioca and that without tapioca from Travancore the position of the people of Cochin would be very difficult. Therefore he wanted merchants of Cochin to come here and buy tapioca from Travancore which we declined to allow, as it might lead to abuses. We said that we would supply tapioca to Cochin but that supply was based on the hypothesis that Cochin does not grow tapioca on any large scale.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether any quantity was not sent to Cochin?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: A certain amount in excess of the prescribed quota might have gone.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether it is impossible to raise the price?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: May I just point out that at Chengannur, I made certain enquiries with the cultivators of tapioca. There were six of them and they all told me that the price which has been fixed was very reasonable.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member whether tapioca is not being sold there at chs. 1-4 per pound?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: That is profiteering.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether any action has been taken against them?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Instructions have been issued in the matter.

Navika Thozhilali Sanghom.

38. *MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Navika Thozhilali Sanghom submitted a memorandum to Government two months back regarding the grievances of the workers;

(*b*) whether a deputation sought permission to meet the Dewan on these matters;

(*c*) whether the Government sent any reply to this and if so, when; and

(*d*) the nature of the reply?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes—to (*a*) on 18-12-1943 and to (*b*) on 7-1-1944.

(*d*) A reply was given that the Dewan would be glad to see the deputation on 9-1-1944. The deputation did not, however, meet the Dewan.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know when a letter posted from here on the 7th will reach Quilon?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: On the 8th, Sir.

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